POLITICAL CHRONOLOGIES OF THE WORLD

A POLITICAL CHRONOLOGY OF AFRICA

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Foreword

This is the fourth title in a new six-volume series of Political Chronologies of the World. The previous volumes concerned Europe, Central, South and East Asia, and the Middle East; forthcoming titles will deal with South-East Asia and Oceania, and the Americas.

Although the book includes greater coverage of more-recent events—particularly in countries with a recent history of political upheaval—it also provides invaluable detail on the early history of each nation. Each chronology begins at least as early as the emergence of an entity resembling the modern nation, and in many cases considerably earlier. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where many of the modern countries correspond to entities created by Europeans, the Editors have attempted to include an amount of pre-European history in each country's chronology, although the focus remains on more-recent occurrences.

In addition to coverage of purely political events, each title in the series also includes details of the principal economic, cultural and social landmarks in the history of each nation. Examples might include the adoption of new languages, alphabets, calendars or religions.

This series aims to be the first point of reference for concise information on the history of each nation in the world. It is hoped that the volumes in the series will enable readers easily to locate self-contained entries on the period and area in which their interest lies.

October 2001

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Abbreviations

AD	*anno Domini*
Adm.	Admiral
a.m.	*ante meridiem* (before noon)
BC	before Christ
Brig.	Brigadier
c.	*circa*
Cdre	Commodore
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
Cmdr	Commander
Col	Colonel
Dr	Doctor
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
etc.	et cetera
f.	founded
Gen.	General
HM	His (or Her) Majesty
kg	kilogram(s)
km	kilometre(s)
kW	kilowatt(s)
Lt	Lieutenant
m.	million
Maj.	Major
Mgr	Monsignor
MP	Member of Parliament
NATO	North American Treaty Organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
Prof.	Professor
St	Saint
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USS	United States Ship
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics